

# NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

VOL. II.

Philadelphia, July 17, 1819.

No. 3.

## Communications.

[For the National Recorder.]

Gentlemen—I have read with much pleasure the essay you have published on the cultivation of the vine in the United States, and also the letters of Mr. Rafinesque upon the introduction of the tea plant into this country. Those who may be active in increasing our industry by enlarging the number of our profitable productions, must be actuated by a better motive than the love of gain. Years generally elapse before a profit is produced, and the cultivator of *tea*, like the planter of *oaks*, must look more to the benefit of others than to his own advantage. Yet if our climate be suited to the production of the "Indian Weed," it is probable that success would be unexpectedly rapid and great. When once naturalized, it would increase with an accelerating velocity, and it is no idle dream, to suppose, that we would be able to share with China the market of Europe. How soon has cotton become a staple product of our soil! "In 1789, a member from South Carolina stated in the House of Representatives of the United States, that the people of the southern states intended to cultivate cotton; and added '*if good seed could be procured he hoped they might succeed.*' Prior to 1802, the cotton wool exported from the United States was blended with that of other countries; no discrimination was made of its origin. On the average of the five years from 1802 to 1806, that of American growth annually exported, amounted to 42,147,653 lbs.; from 1807 to 1811, the annual exportation was 49,165,553 lbs, and in 1817, 85,649,328 lbs. In 1814 there was 97.67 per centum more of

VOL. II.

American cotton wool exported, than in 1802."\*

This instance affords us good reason to expect success in our endeavours to cultivate any plant which can thrive in our climate, and for which there is a great demand.

The cultivation of the vine is especially desirable, for it would not only increase industry by multiplying the objects to which it could be successfully directed, but by lessening that palsy *drunkenness*. It would not only animate industry, but would improve our moral condition by removing the greatest of all temptations to vice. There is now, I believe, no doubt that the fertile regions of the south-west are capable of producing vines of a good quality, and there is good reason to hope that they will soon be applied to this object, for the planter may easily make the experiment on a small scale, and is sure of an agreeable recompense for his labour in the pleasant shade and delicious fruit, that will be his least production.

Whether it be expedient to promote domestic manufactures by imposing high duties on importations, is a question that may admit of some doubt; but there can be but one opinion as to the propriety of exerting ourselves to multiply the productions of our soil, especially at this time, when the demand for cotton and flour has so much diminished. By the pursuits of agriculture, more rapidly than by any other mode of industry, our population will be extended and increased, and perhaps our true policy, is, to appropriate the vast tracts of uncultivated land that are within our borders, before we force the establishment of manufactures.

With a view to point out to the enterprising and the patriotic, the particular

\* Seybert's Statistics, p. 84.

articles to which their attention may probably be directed with most advantage, I have extracted, from Dr. Seybert's Statistics, a statement of the amount of our imports of a few principal articles. I think it probable that they may all be cultivated here, but am not qualified to judge. I have chosen the year from October 1810, to October 1811, as affording a more correct statement of our imports than the succeeding years of war. The amount (22 millions) is sufficient to turn the balance of trade in our favour, even if we should continue to import the European manufactures, and would early and entirely free us from the embarrassments that a deficiency of money has occasioned.

The man whose exertions shall introduce the cultivation of any important article of consumption, will long receive in the gratitude of his countrymen, the purest recompense of human virtue.

*Imported from October, 1810, to October, 1811.*

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Wine, 1,890,044 gals. costing (I suppose,*) |             |
| 70 cts., about . . . . .                    | \$1,300,000 |
| Spirits,† 4,142,886 gals. at 60 . . . . .   | 2,500,000   |
| Sugar, 85,425,357 lbs. at 8 . . . . .       | 7,000,000   |
| Molasses, 8,634,418 gals. at 40 . . . . .   | 3,500,000   |
| Teas, 2,651,385 lbs. at 60 . . . . .        | 1,700,000   |
| Coffee, 30,062,336 at 20 . . . . .          | 6,000,000   |

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\$22,000,000

\* I am not much acquainted with the costs of the articles mentioned, but believe I have not rated them too high.

† I notice this as an important article which we might cease to import; but I hope its place might be supplied by wine of our own manufacture, and not that it should be distilled in our own country.

AMERICUS.

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*For the National Recorder.*

It is the distinguishing excellency and happiness of man, that he is formed for the knowledge and adoration of Divinity. He surveys the stupendous fabric of creation spread out before his view, and every where beholds a God. In every part of the physical and moral system he finds an evidence of his being, and the glorious perfections of his nature. The thousand worlds that hold their mighty courses o'er his head, fill his heart with awe of that power at whose almighty word, they

all were "launched along the illimitable void," and when, through all nature above, around, below him, he beholds the admirable order, beauty, and utility that every where prevail, his heart in concert with the "music of the spheres, attests in wisdom thou hast made them all." But sometimes, alas! the splendour of this scene is darkened by an interposing cloud, which the weak sight of human intellect cannot penetrate. The throb of distrust arrests the rapture of admiration, and the eye that but now was suffused with the tear of delight, looks anxiously around for the hand of Divinity to stay the progress of disorder. When the warring elements shake all nature to the centre, when the inflamed passions of corrupt humanity boldly stalk abroad and whelm the earth in blood and tears, when to the joyous shouts of victory respond the dying groans of its thousand bleeding victims; to the loud laugh of pleasure that bursts from one half the human race, the shrieks that the agony of pain force from the other; and to the imperious call of luxury for new supplies to the gratification of its pampered appetites; the vain cry of cold, naked, famished poverty for the little that the necessities of nature demand: when this aspect of the world meets the eye of contemplation, then it is that proud philosophy would wrest the sceptre of dominion from the impotent hand of Deity; or, poor human nature suspends her confidence in a being who seems unable or unwilling to prevent the disorganization of the fair system he had formed.

This prevalence of disorders in nature and society has in all ages perplexed the investigations of philosophy, encouraged the presumptions of scepticism, and saddened the meditations of piety. It is not material to enter into the intricacies of the argument that has divided human opinion on the origin of good and evil. It may be well, to remark, however, that without adopting the bold presumption of some inquiries that 'twas not possible for the Deity to have excluded evil from his works, as well as the impious absurdity of others, who have made good and evil the separate provinces of opposing principles equally concerned in the production of the universe, one reflection at least is sufficient, to reconcile the observation on experience of evil with an un-

disturbed confidence in our station as the dependents of perfect benevolence.

(To be continued.)

## Political Economy.

*The Paper System.*—One mode, by which many of the political economists of the day propose to relieve the present difficulties, is by resorting to a more complete paper system: that is to say, they propose with great gravity to remove the effect by increasing its principal cause!

The proposition is so strange, that nothing but the seriousness with which it is advocated by many respectable and influential persons, could render it worthy of the least consideration. It is admitted on all hands, that excessive banking, by producing high prices, fostering speculation, and extending the import trade, has been the chief source of these difficulties; and by way of relief, it is proposed to adopt such measures as will enable the banks to put out more paper than they ever did before. This is a full match for the project of expelling the branch banks from this state, for the purpose of relieving the citizens from the pressure of their debts, by bringing demands upon them tenfold greater in amount and urgency.

The advocates of the paper system, agree neither in the mode of managing it, nor in the extent to which they would carry it. Some of them tell us, they merely want a *temporary* suspension of specie payments by the existing banks; while others insist, that specie will no longer answer the purposes of a circulating medium, neither directly, nor as the basis of a paper currency; and therefore that it must be wholly abandoned, and a permanent paper currency adopted! This doctrine has many and powerful supporters in all parts of the United States.

I consider the difference between these schemes as not very material; for the result will ultimately be the same in either case, a *permanent paper currency*, not convertible into specie. If the banks now stop payment, and issue paper to relieve present difficulties, high prices will be thereby kept up, and business will continue to be done in conformity

with such prices: and when specie payments are resumed, and the currency reduced, the same pressure will again be felt which is now experienced. If we have not firmness enough to bear it now, shall we acquire that firmness by being longer accustomed to the paper system? Certainly not. The consequence then must be, that the suspension will be permanent, giving us a permanent paper currency of the worst description, as it will depend on the caprice of hundreds or even thousands of little, dispersed, petty, irresponsible banks, without control either of law, conscience, or interest. They would literally and certainly produce an immense swarm of *rag-barons*, who would overspread the country, like the locusts of Egypt, and utterly blight and destroy the pleasing prospects of the industrious husbandman.

The scheme, therefore, of those who are for going at once and openly into a permanent paper currency *under the control of Congress*, is much to be preferred. The objection to it is, that it will entail upon us many and not inconsiderable evils, for the sake of being relieved from the present *temporary* embarrassments of the merchants and speculators. Let us briefly review the effects it must produce—and first, as to our foreign commerce.

The object of the paper system, is to secure us a greater circulating medium than we are entitled to possess as a part of the commercial world. As long as we trade with the rest of the world, the precious metals will come into our country and remain here, in proportion to the demand or use for them, as certainly as air rushes into a vacuum and fills it, when there is nothing to obstruct its progress. As a part of the commercial world, we shall thus constantly have our share of the circulating medium of commerce in specie; for which we may substitute, if we choose, the paper of specie paying banks, even to an amount somewhat greater. There can hence be no rational motive for resorting wholly to a paper currency not convertible into specie, but to obtain a greater currency than our share of specie, together with the paper it would keep in circulation. Suppose then we have adopted the paper system, and have supplied ourselves with more money than we ought to have in

comparison with other commercial nations: what will be its immediate effects?

In the first place, the price of every thing to be paid for with this paper money, will be higher than it ought to be, in proportion as we have more money than we ought to have. Foreign goods will therefore be imported and sold rapidly, because they will be comparatively very cheap; but the export trade will languish, because produce will command as high a price here as in Europe, or even higher: a heavy balance of trade against us, bankruptcies, embarrassments, stagnation of trade; in short, every circumstance of the present hard times will soon follow, except the scarcity of money, which will not be so great, because our paper will not bear exportation to any great amount.

But these effects will gradually disappear, and commerce will ultimately settle down at what it would be, if we had still adhered to the specie standard. The exchange with Europe will be nominally as much against us, as our amount of money exceeds what it should be. If we have increased at fifty per cent. bills of exchange on Europe will average fifty per cent. above par. Every thing will be sold here at a price proportionally high. The importing merchants will demand high prices in our paper money for their goods, in order that they may be able to buy bills at a great advance to pay for them in Europe, and still make a profit upon them. The exporting merchants will buy produce at a high price, although they will be obliged to sell it nominally for less in Europe; because they will be able to save themselves, and make a profit, by selling bills, at a great advance, on the funds thus acquired abroad. Or we may suppose the whole to be done by the same person, without the aid of bills of exchange.—This person, we will suppose, buys a thousand dollars worth of goods in England on credit, and brings them to America, where he sells them for two thousand dollars in our paper money; with this he buys cotton, tobacco, or flour, which he carries to England and sells at fifty per cent. lower than first cost, that is, for \$1,500, with which he pays for the goods, and clears fifty per cent. or five hundred dollars, leaving expenses out of the calculation. And thus the

only effect ultimately produced by the paper system and increase of our money, as to foreign commerce, would be, that the merchants would have to use more money in all their dealings at home; and in all their calculations they would have constantly to keep in view the difference between the value of our paper and the circulating medium of other countries.

And here we discover a fruitful source of difficulties, embarrassments, and bankruptcies. As the amount of our money would have no connexion with our commerce, or the amount of property in the country, but depend on the arbitrary will of Congress, or on their opinion and caprices, it follows, that no man would be able to know, when he creates a debt, what will be the value of money when it is to be paid. If a session of Congress should intervene, the amount of money may be increased 20, or 30, or even 50 per cent. before the debt is paid, and make it in the same proportion less valuable to the creditor. This is an evil which would affect all classes of the community; and it is one that would frequently occur; for the increase of wealth and population would occasionally require an increase of money; and the imaginary wants of the noisy speculators would require it still more; so that new emissions of paper by the government would certainly be frequent and extensive. Mutual distrust and gambling speculations must be the consequence.

In addition to all this, the absolute and unlimited power of the general government over the circulating medium, which the management of this paper system would give it, would render it almost as absolute and despotic as the parliament of Great Britain. Nor would it be possible with all this power, to inspire the people with full confidence in its paper. Every new emission would create alarms and shake its credit. The people would feel instinctively, that the power of creating money at pleasure, is too great a temptation to be resisted by any body of men; and the very fear of its being abused would produce by anticipation the effects of such abuse.

The evils of the present banking system are sufficiently great, without plunging deeper into the abyss of paper credit. That the banks produce benefits to the country is not to be denied; they afford

convenient and safe places for the deposit of money; they are sources from which those who want to borrow money can obtain it conveniently, and at a low rate of interest; and their notes are more convenient to be carried about and counted, than the dollars they represent, especially in large transactions. Their evils are, that they force too much money into circulation, and thus encourage overtrading, speculation, and extravagance of every kind; their notes are more easily counterfeited than coin, and thus produce great perplexity to the people; and they levy an immense tax on the community. The latter is an item of great importance, though seldom noticed in discussions of this subject. Let us give it our attention for a moment.

The banks collect the specie of the country into their vaults, and issue their paper in lieu of it: and for every dollar thus issued, they receive interest at the rate of more than 6 per cent.; that is, for collecting the specie and converting it into paper, they receive from the community more than 6 per cent. per annum for ever! As the greater part of the coin in the country is thus collected, and paper substituted for it, by the banks, it follows, that the people are actually paying a revenue of more than 6 per cent. per annum on nearly the whole of their circulating medium, for the great benefit of having it converted into suspicious and depreciating bank paper!—for the blessed privilege of handling such paper in place of hard dollars! This is no exaggeration—it is plain matter of fact. The borrowers from the banks are the immediate payers of the interest; but it ultimately comes out of those who circulate the money; just as the tax on imported goods, which is paid in the first instance by the importer, comes ultimately out of the consumers. It is well worth the consideration of the people, whether the benefits derived from the banks are worth 6 per cent. per annum on the whole of their circulating medium? Let us make an estimate of the amount of this tax.

Before the present scarcity of money was produced by the balance of trade against us, and the speculations in the public lands, the amount of paper circulating in Kentucky was at least two millions. The interest on that amount at 6 per cent. only, is *one hundred and*

*twenty thousand dollars!* which exceeds the whole amount of taxes paid to the state government. Such is the sum paid to the bank owners for the great benefits rendered by them to the community, and chiefly for the blessed privilege of having their excellent paper instead of specie. Is it not a cheap purchase?—a great bargain? But we are told, they have not merely converted specie into paper, but have increased the amount of our money, by issuing more paper than they have dollars in their vaults. So much the worse. We pay the same interest on this fictitious money; and have beside, to suffer all the evils produced by an excess of fictitious capital. I repeat, it is well worthy of consideration, whether the benefits of banking are worth one hundred and twenty thousand dollars per annum to the people of Kentucky.

*Ken. Rep.]*

A MERCHANT.

### Statistics.

*Amount of Inspections in the City of Baltimore, for the Quarter ending the 30th of June, 1819.*

|       |               |                  |
|-------|---------------|------------------|
| 73957 | barrels wheat | Flour            |
| 2982  | half barrels  | do.              |
| 591   | barrels       | Rye do.          |
| 533   | casks         | Indian Meal      |
| 4158  | barrels       | Pork             |
| 668   | do.           | Beef             |
| 8     | half bbls.    | do.              |
| 42112 | barrels       | Herrings         |
| 14    | half do.      | do.              |
| 11207 | barrels       | Shad             |
| 171   | half bbls.    | do.              |
| 104   | barrels       | Mackerel         |
| 24    | half bbls.    | do.              |
| 439   | kegs          | Butter           |
| 599   | do.           | Lard             |
| 9988  | small casks   | Domestic Spirits |
| 1736  | large do.     | do.              |
| 457   | casks         | Foreign Spirits  |
| 390   | small casks   | Oil and Molasses |
| 80    | large do.     | do.              |
| 602   | Ullages.      |                  |

JOHN HARGROVE, Reg. C. B.

*Connecticut School Fund.—Extract from a Report made to the Legislature of Connecticut.*

Your committee have judged proper to present, as far as practicable, the nominal value and distribution of the school fund; and for this purpose they have prepared the following exhibit—viz

|                                    |   |             |    |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------|----|
| State of Connecticut               | - | \$579,227   | 99 |
| In the state of New York           | - | 568,297     | 63 |
| Massachusetts,                     |   | 271,582     | 30 |
| Vermont                            | - | 17,444      | 63 |
| Ohio                               | - | 47,279      | 33 |
| <hr/>                              |   |             |    |
| Amount of bonds                    | - | 1,483,831   | 88 |
| Stock—576 shares in Hartford Bank  | - | 57,600      | 00 |
| New lands in the state of New York | - | \$38,000    |    |
| In the state of Ohio               | - | 5,560       |    |
| <hr/>                              |   |             |    |
| Amount of new lands                | - | 40,560      | 00 |
| Cultivated farms in Connecticut    | - | \$7,617     | 60 |
| In Massachusetts                   | - | 59,675      | 94 |
| <hr/>                              |   |             |    |
| Amount of farms                    | - | 67,193      | 54 |
| <hr/>                              |   |             |    |
| Total amount                       | - | \$1,649,185 | 42 |

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### Science.

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*Spontaneous Combustion of Cotton Goods.*—It is well known that cotton goods, either intentionally, or accidentally, imbued with linseed oil, are liable to take fire spontaneously. Two instances of the latter accident have occurred within the writer's knowledge, by which the danger of dreadful fires was incurred. Many fires in cotton mills are probably owing to this accident; and this reflection should suggest a particular caution on the part of the owners and insurers of these manufactories.

It has also occurred to the writer, to see the spontaneous inflammation of the oiled cotton itself, and to examine the heap of oiled cotton before and after the combustion had begun and had been arrested. The centre of this heap, even when far from the state of combustion, was many degrees higher than that of the surrounding atmosphere.

The rationale of this phenomenon appears to be the following; the oil absorbs the oxygen from the contiguous atmosphere. This may be readily seen by enclosing a portion of cotton moistened with linseed oil in an inverted glass jar; the enclosed gas is in the course of a short time diminished in bulk and deprived of its oxygen. In large heaps, a degree of increased temperature is induced by the consolidation of the oxygen gas. This in time augments, so as to induce that species of combustion, which consists in the propagation of sparks, but is unattend-

ed with flame. At length complete inflammation is induced.

The transition from the slow combination of oxygen, to the state of combustion without flame, and from this latter to inflammation, is worthy the particular attention of chemists.

[*Journal of Science.*

*Phalaena Devastator*—Description of the *Phalaena Devastator*, (the insect that produces the Cut-worm,) communicated for the American Journal of Science, &c. by Mr. JOHN P. BRACE, of Litchfield, Conn.

This moth, whose larva is one of our most destructive enemies, belongs to the Linnæan family noctua, in the genus phalaena. Its specific characters are as follow: Wings incumbent and horizontal, when at rest; body long and thin; thorax thick, but not crested; head small; eyes prominent and black; antennæ setaceous, gradually lessening towards extremities, and slightly ciliated; palpi two, flat, broad in the middle, and very hairy; tongue rolled up between them, not very prominent; clypeus small, legs long, small and hairy; wings long as body; under wings shortest; colour a dark silvery gray, with transverse dotted bands of black on upper wings. The insect lays its eggs in the commencement of autumn, at the roots of trees and near the ground: they are hatched early in May. The habits of the cut-worm have been often and fully detailed. They eat almost all kinds of vegetables, preferring beans, cabbages, and corn. They continue in this state about four weeks; they then cast their skin and enter the *pupa* state, under ground. This is a crustaceous covering, fitted to the parts of the future insect. In this they continue for four weeks longer, and come out in the fly, or insect state, about the middle of July. All those chrysalids that I exposed to the sun, died; and all those that were kept cool under earth, produced an insect: hence I infer, that the heat of the sun will kill the chrysalids. If, then, the ground be ploughed about the first of July, many of those insects might be destroyed, and the destruction of the productions of the next year prevented; for the *pupa* is never more than a few inches under ground.

The phalaena devastator is never seen during the day; it conceals itself in the

crevices of buildings, and beneath the bark of trees. About sun-down it leaves its hiding-place, is constantly on the wing, and very troublesome about the candles in houses. It flies very rapidly, and is not easily taken.

Such is the description of this formidable enemy to vegetation. No efficacious method has yet been taken to prevent its ravages, but the one who could accomplish it, would do the cause of agriculture an essential service.

[*Silliman's Journal.*]

*Comets.*—The following Essay on Comets was inserted in a periodical publication in London, in the year 1811, at the time the comet of that year was seen.

Lo! from the dread immensity of space,  
Returning with accelerated course,  
The rushing comet to the sun descends,  
With awful train projected o'er the heavens;  
The guilty nations tremble; but above  
These superstitious horrors that enslave  
The fond sequacious herd, th' enlighten'd few,  
Whose godlike minds philosophy exalts,  
The glorious stranger hail!

The astronomy of comets may be said to be in its infancy, scarcely any knowledge having been gained of them before the seventeenth century. The ancients, it seems, knew very little of their nature. Seneca relates his having seen three; but they were merely considered, both by him and his contemporaries, as wandering stars or fiery meteors, generated of bituminous exhalations from the earth, which, being raised into the higher regions of the air, were set on fire, and there continued till they were consumed. They were also believed to be ominous phenomena, displayed by the Deity to terrify mankind, and give warning of some dreadful calamity; and the same opinion has prevailed from the time of the Roman empire till the illustrious Newton, extending his discoveries beyond even the confines of our system, in his aerial researches through the regions of space, discovered the periodical return of these (till then) awful strangers; and though in many instances his calculations were erroneous, yet, like the first circumnavigator, he led the way to unknown regions; and if great things may be compared to less, like Columbus, who discovered the West Indies and the vast continent of America, and left to future na-

vigators to correct his calculations of their extent, and to obtain a more exact knowledge of the interior, the followers of Newton, guided by his tract, and standing as it were on his shoulders, launch farther into the stellar regions, and obtain a more accurate knowledge of the distances of the planets.

Comets, according to sir Isaac Newton, are compact durable bodies; that is, a kind of planets which move in very oblique elliptical orbits every way with the greatest freedom, persevering in their motions even against the course of the planets; and their tails are very thin and slender vapours emitted by the head or nucleus of the comet, ignited or heated by the sun. From the great discoveries which this illustrious philosopher has made in this part of astronomy, there is reason to think succeeding astronomers will in time carry it to much greater perfection; but the length of time in which they are performing their revolutions, and the short stay they make within sight of our planet must long render their history dark and obscure. Although to sir Isaac Newton we are indebted for the true theory of the motions of comets, yet his opinion of the cause of the rays that surround them has been controverted by some philosophers, who have asserted, that the matter which constitutes the tail is not an illuminated vapour but a self-shining substance, which, in all positions of the comets, and whatever the directions of their motions, whether to or from the sun, is thrown off from its dark atmosphere in a direction opposite the sun a short time before or after its perihelion.

And here it may be necessary to inform his young readers, that the perihelion of a comet or planet is the point of its orbit nearest the sun; the aphelion is the reverse: and the orbit of a comet, unlike that of a planet which is supposed to perform its revolution in that of a circle, is called elliptical, that is, in the tendency of an oval; or as it is called in astronomy, in the periphery of an ellipsis. But to return to the opinions which are held respecting their tail; others have shown that there is a perfect analogy between their tails and the aurora borealis, and suppose that they are both formed from the emanation of the electric fluid from their respective bodies, although it was the opinion of sir Isaac Newton that they

were planetary bodies, most likely inhabited. Yet others have differed from him, and have supposed that they were formed

From their huge vap'ry train, perhaps to shake  
Reviving moisture on the numerous orbs  
Through which their long ellipsis winds.

Thomson.

Others again, have supposed that they were fiery bodies designed perhaps,

To lend new fuel to declining suns,  
To light up worlds, and feed the eternal fire.

Thomson.

Some have supposed them to be worlds, which, having performed their office in creation, are in a state of fusion. But the still more prevailing opinion than either that has been mentioned is, that one of them is intended to burn up this earth. This opinion, which seems to have been almost coeval with time itself, is supposed to have its foundation in the sacred writings; but as this is not the province of the admirer of nature, he will leave it for others to refute; and with the utmost deference to the judgment of his superiors, either in knowledge or understanding, he must doubt its probability.

The comet of 1681, is supposed to be the one intended to perform this dreadful operation: the period of its return is 575 years, and its distance from the sun is 13 millions of miles. This comet passed by the earth's orbit in the year of the universal deluge, and by its attraction, is supposed to have assisted in elevating the waters, and drawing them over the surfaces. In the year 1680, it passed very near the earth's orbit, but she was then in a distant part. It approached the sun within one-sixth part of his diameter from his surface, moved with the velocity of 880,000 miles an hour, and was heated to a degree of intensity 2000 times greater than the heat of red-hot iron. It will return in the year 2225.

The number of comets is supposed to be no less than 450. There are comets of much shorter periods than that of 1680. The comet *Halley*, appeared in 1759, its period is 75 years; and it will again return in 1834 or 1835.

And here the admirer of nature will take his leave on the subject of comets, after having laid before his young readers a few of the several opinions that we hear concerning them, hoping they will remember that the great end of every sci-

ence, and particularly astronomy, is that we may learn to reverence the Almighty in his works, which are so eminently displayed in the stellar regions.

An undevout astronomer is mad!—*Young*.

[*Union*.

### *The Electricity of the Human Body.*

—Dr. Hartmann, of Frankfort on the Oder, has published in a German medical journal, a statement, according to which he is able to produce at pleasure an efflux of electrical matter from his body towards other persons. You hear the crackling, see the sparks, and feel the electric shock. He has now acquired this faculty to so high a degree, that it depends solely on his own pleasure to make an electric spark issue from his fingers, or draw it from any other part of his body. Thus in this electrical man, the will has an influence on the development of the electricity, which had not hitherto been observed, except in the electrical eel.

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## Miscellany.

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### THE TWO COUSINS.

*A Pennsylvania Tale.*

Frederic and William went to school together—they were sons of two brothers, both of whom died while the boys were at school, and each left a widow, but no children except these two sons.

There was the same similarity in the circumstances of the two brothers. Their industry and prudence had enabled them to preserve a decent exterior, and the excellent economy of their respective wives had given them comfortable homes, and preserved them from the pressure of debt.

The two young men, after their education was said to be completed, that is, after they had passed an examination and received diplomas, constituting them bachelors of arts, paid a short visit to Philadelphia, on their return to their parents. Frederic, the most lively and ardent of the two, soon became acquainted with some young men in commercial employments: he was struck with their genteel appearance and fashionable manners. Their conversation sometimes turned upon the great sums of money that were made by different houses. Judging from the external appearance of the dwelling houses, equipages, servants, &c. of the merchants' establishments, Frederic concluded that trade was not only a ready but a certain road to wealth, and soon made up his mind to become a merchant.

William, less rapid in his conclusions, advised his friend to postpone his final determination, at least till he consulted his mother, and Frederic, who was always dutiful and affectionate, agreed to do so.

Their respective homes were not far asunder. They arrived, embraced their mothers, who received them with admiration at their improvements, and strong dispositions to agree to any reasonable plan for their future lives. Both the mothers, however, entertained strong hopes that their sons would continue to cultivate their paternal farms; that as soon as they were old enough, they would form matrimonial connexions in the neighbourhood, and be content to raise their future families in the modest, but certain and happy pursuits of agriculture.

William wanted little encouragement to induce him to adopt this plan. He had already begun to think that wealth alone did not ensure felicity. He had noticed, even during his short visit to Philadelphia, that many of those flourishing men, whose splendour seemed to have dazzled the eyes of his cousin, gave occasional indications of solicitude and discontent. He had noticed their anxieties in respect to their adventures on the ocean—their fears, if losses happened, that they should have difficulties with underwriters—their complaints, if they did not sell their goods, that they were doing no business—and their disappointments, when they had sold them, at the procrastination, and sometimes the failures, of their debtors. William was more of a silent observer than Frederic: he had asked nobody for explanations, but on his return home, he represented his suspicions to Frederic. Frederic was generally ready with his answers, and endeavoured partly to reason and partly to ridicule his friend out of these strange notions. In return he asked William, whether there was a more anxious state of being than a mere farmer, dependent on the weather—suffering loss, if at particular seasons it is too dry or too wet—when crops are plentiful, obliged to sell his grain for almost nothing, and when good prices can be obtained having little to sell—disappointed after all his labour by the mildew or the red rust—defeated even by the contemptible little insect, the Hessian fly—his sheep destroyed by dogs—his cattle diminished by epidemic diseases—his fences decaying—his neighbours trespassing on him, or compelling him to pay damages for his involuntary trespasses on them: add to these evils, which could not be denied to exist, the want of polished society, the deprivation of the elegancies, and even of many of the solid comforts of life, &c., he grew eloquent, and William became more thoughtful and silent.

These debates were continued at home—they saw each other frequently—their mothers were taken into council. They were both inclined to the safest course, whatever it might be—various plans were suggested—to continue on the old farms—to sell them, and buy land in the state of Ohio—to move

down the Mississippi and cultivate cotton, which began at that time to be talked of by a few—to try some sort of domestic manufacture, in case the war then threatened should actually break out, and other schemes presented themselves to view, and were fully discussed. The Louisiana plan was rejected, because it would require slaves. The ladies did not like to go to Ohio, because they should be too near the Indians: and, after much deliberation, Frederic adhered to his mercantile plan, and William determined to stay on the paternal estate.

An order of Orphan's Court was in due time obtained for the sale of Frederic's farm, which his minority rendered it impossible to make a good title for in any other manner. A good price was obtained, part of the payment was produced in cash, and satisfactory security given for the balance.

Frederic, about to set off for Philadelphia with the money payment in his pocket, strongly urged his good mother to accompany him; but she, who knew nothing of city life and city manners, preferred boarding with a neighbour, promising, however, that as soon as her beloved son should be married and settled she would come up, and if she liked it, would remain with him, but reserving a right to return when she pleased to her native air.

This reasonable compromise having been effected, Frederic took an affectionate leave of her, his friend William, and his aunt, and set off in the highest spirits, loaded with the good wishes of them all.

On his arrival in town, he in the first place made a purchase in bank stock, in order to secure a moderate income for the purpose of paying expenses, until he should be able to do business on his own account, and by the help of one of his young friends, he soon obtained admission into a first rate counting house, where he was kindly treated.

Although fond of fashionable life, he kept clear of the extremes of fashionable follies: he was introduced into some respectable families, and the general propriety of his demeanour, united with his active and well informed mind and lively conversation, procured him many friends.

He kept up a regular correspondence with his mother, and at the expiration of his noviciate, which took place at the close of the war, he had the pleasure of informing her, that his late master had conferred on him a profitable supercargoship to Canton.

He regretted that he could not visit his relations before he embarked, and bid them the most affectionate adieu.

Shortly after he sailed, a reverse of fortune took place with his friend William. The father of the latter was supposed to have died clear of debts; but a letter from the county commissioners, addressed to the widow as administratrix, apprised her that her husband had been one of the sureties of a certain contractor, for building, and insuring the continuance of a bridge for a certain number of

years; but the bridge, which had been slightly constructed, had given way—the contractor had left the country—the other sureties were insufficient, and his estate was alone looked to for the damage sustained. On this distressing intelligence, William flew to the treasurer's office, examined the bond, and found it was actually signed by his father.

William's resolution was soon taken. After examining the fallen structure, and convincing himself that it might be replaced for a sum considerably short of the penalty of the bond, he convened the commissioners, and made his proposals to them. After some deliberation they were accepted, provided he could find security for the performance of them. Although this was difficult, yet his good character, founded on his known industry and integrity, at length enabled him to obtain two sufficient bondsmen, and the work was speedily undertaken. William watched its progress with anxiety; but his architect proved incompetent, and in a matter which generally appears so plain to a common mason, that none of them hesitates to undertake the construction of an arch, even of very large diameter. Some error was committed, which occasioned it, shortly after the centre pieces were knocked away, to sink under its own weight a second time, into the stream below.

There was now no remedy—his bondsmen were become his creditors and his enemies: and the original obligation was enforced against his father's estate. A sale took place, and after payment of the debt to the county, with the attendant charges, about fifteen hundred dollars remained.

His filial love and reverence were not abated by this reduction of his circumstances. His mother, although she thought it was unkind in her husband to have concealed from her that he had executed such a bond, was soon induced by her son to believe that it was the effect of his supposing it was a mere form, in which no unpleasant results could possibly attend, and therefore without dividing their attention by unmerited complaints or unavailing regrets, they seriously began to consider the best mode of employing the little remnant of fortune which belonged to them. Exclusive of the sales of the estate, William had a handsome saddle horse, and his mother two cows and some sheep.

Let us buy a tract of vacant land, not in the Ohio or the Illinois, but in one of the interior counties of our own state, cried William, after a long silence. I can manage, I think, to build a comfortable log house and a barn, and to clear ground enough to support us.

To give us at least the necessities of life, replied his mother, and if I see you contented and happy, that will be the luxury of it.

My dear mother! was his only answer; and he very soon mounted his horse, to inquire of a storekeeper, who resided at a town a few miles distant, who he knew owned some

vacant land, what would be the price of one of his four hundred acre tracts on the waters of —.

The owner was a man of sense and liberality—he knew the value of fixing an active young settler on the land, and at once made a bargain with him. In consideration of his building a dwelling house, and clearing and cultivating ten acres of ground in one year's time, he bound himself to give him a deed for twenty-five acres, and a conveyance, subject to a mortgage on the whole 400 acres, for the remaining 375 acres, at three dollars an acre, payable by annual instalments within the term of seven years.

Elated with his contract, William returned to his mother, and after fixing her in comfortable lodgings as near as possible to the scene of his intended operations, he had his tract marked off by the deputy surveyor, fixed on the most favourable spot for the site of his house, near to a copious spring, engaged after some difficulty a couple of stout assistants, and with the united efforts of the three soon had trees felled, hewn into logs, and prepared to build a house of 16 feet by 20, and a barn of nearly the same size. The neighbours, according to the benevolent custom of the country, assembled on his invitation at an appointed time, to erect his buildings; and at the rustic entertainment which he gave them, his affable manners and evident good sense sent them home with the most favourable impressions of his character.

To roof his buildings, add a chimney to his dwelling house, and construct such little internal conveniences as the simplicity of his intended life required, was his next care. He then proceeded to destroy by fire, as many trees around his house, as, in his calculation, would clear 15 acres, and having borrowed a plough, and hired another horse, he turned up a part of his cleared ground ready to receive the seed as soon as the season should be sufficiently advanced. The next process was to open a way through the woods to the nearest road, and to proceed to the residence of his mother, for the purpose of installing her in their new possessions. Two beds, some plain chairs and tables, kitchen utensils, and such other domestic articles as were indispensable, and a stock of provisions sufficient for three or four months, their two cows, some hogs and their sheep, six in number, formed the caravan which he had the pleasure of conducting, with his beloved mother, to their selected residence. She viewed with pleasure the humble cottage, situated on the side of an agreeable hill, near to the spring which discharged an abundant flow of water into a stream that run between the trees till it eluded their sight, anticipating a fine meadow that might hereafter be made on its banks. The view, it is true, was somewhat confined: the forest met the eye in every direction, at a short distance from the house, but the imagination opening future avenues, and clearing future fields, cheered the mind by the prospect of hereafter enjoy-

ing plenty and content. These are your own, cried the mother, affectionately embracing her son. They will be, when, with the blessing of God on my labours, I shall have fully paid for the land; in the meanwhile, let us diligently employ ourselves. I will put Indian corn and potatoes, and a few early turnips into the ground; and you, my dear mother, will manage our household concerns—they will not be so numerous as to fatigue you, after you have got over the first arrangements. Cheerfully dividing their tasks, the son had soon the satisfaction of seeing his cleared spot surrounded by a competent fence, a place partitioned off near his barn, to secure his horse, and the cows and sheep at night, on their return from the woods; some poultry, which the provident mother had purchased and brought with her, supplied them with eggs, and they sat down in health and peace to their daily meals, unassailed by duns, and unannoyed by dyspepsia; it is true, they had very little society, that is, no neighbours came to gather or collect scandal, to show their own finery, or recommend with sarcastic kindness, the purchase of articles which they knew were beyond the means of the persons they visited—but sometimes one of the nearest inhabitants stopped with them, as he was traversing the woods with his rifle, or hunting for his strayed cattle. Their conversation would then turn on the topics most interesting to them both—the best mode of promoting the improvement of the country, the shortest way to clear off the heavy timber, and similar subjects. The advice and information thus given, was carefully remembered, and in general successfully followed; but in one respect, William's good sense induced him at once to reject the counsel and shun the example afforded him. Although there seemed many leisure hours on his hands, he never could be persuaded to employ himself in hunting. He saw in some of his neighbours, the evil effects of this fascinating amusement; he found their families and their farming neglected, while they remained whole days and nights in the woods, from which they sometimes returned with the carcass of a deer, or part of a bear, the residue of which, however carefully they attempted to secure it, often disappeared before they could get back to the spot; but they returned as frequently without success, fatigued and discontented, and for a time averse to regular labour. He procured and kept a rifle, but used it only to drive off or destroy a prowling wolf or bear, which sometimes approached his dwelling. From habits of intemperance, the recollection of his father's excellent example, and his own firmness, always secured him. He soon found that the pure water of his spring gave him more satisfaction than when contaminated by the vile infusion of whiskey—and he was speedily convinced that the muscular strength of the water drinker, necessarily exceeded that of the toper of ardent spirits. He gathered in a good crop of corn and potatoes. A little

garden, which afforded his chief relaxation, supplied their table with turnips, cabbages, and a few other vegetables, proper for the winter. They killed and salted down pork, and some of their sheep, the latter being to him an experiment, which he found to answer well—and being thus prepared, they contemplated their winter stock with the highest satisfaction, and presented their daily and fervent thanks to the Giver of all good, for his bountiful dispensation to them. During the milder days in winter, he employed himself in cutting down some more of the surrounding trees, in deadening others, so as to render their combustion more easy, strengthening his fences, and making new ones round the additional clearing, taking care of his cattle, and other out-door occupations; in severer weather he repaired and improved the interior of his dwelling, secured his barn as much as possible from the cold, repaired his tools, and still found in every occupation something that interested him, because every thing promoted present comfort, and promised future success. His mother, equally cheerful and happy, in the intervals of meals and culinary operations, was busy with her needle or her spinning wheel, and the length of the winter evenings was rendered almost imperceptible, by the aid of a few excellent books, which he had brought with him, and chiefly his father's Bible, which one of the county commissioners, at the time of the sale, had purchased, and presented to him.

Every evening he read aloud to his mother while she sat at work, a certain number of pages out of the holy volume, and their mutual observations, while they reciprocally improved their minds, gradually rendered the study so delightful, that they closed the book with reluctance, when nature required them to retire to rest. In the ensuing spring more land was cleared, the crop of course was increased, William enlarged his barn to double its original size, and made several improvements in his family establishments. The extra produce of his crop enabled him to sell some hundred weight of bacon—he raised wheat, the greatest part of which he carried on his horse to a mill, about seven miles off, and received cash for it; and at the beginning of the third year, he enlarged his household by the addition of a healthy young married couple, who were wandering through the country without money, in search of a settlement or some employment. William soon convinced the young man of the dishonesty as well as danger of fixing himself on other people's lands without their license, and they both agreed to stay with him on moderate terms, for one year, and longer if they agreed together. With this aid, William in the first place built an addition to his house, to serve for a kitchen with a lodging room over it; he cleared several more acres of ground, procured another horse, and the productions of his fields, as well as the increase of his stock, enabled him to lay by double the amount of

the preceding year. His new assistants proved industrious and frugal, cleanly in their habits and decent in their manners—they all sat together at the same table, and William sometimes thought that during his short stay at Philadelphia, he had been in company with young men rather more unseemly and unpleasant in their conversation than this modest though uninformed man of the woods. The young woman sometimes took her share in the labours of the field and the barn yard, she milked the cows and relieved his mother from the fatigue of making butter, and the only dissatisfaction of the old lady was that she was now less occupied than she used to be.

At the close of his third year he had collected enough of the fruits of his own labour, to pay an instalment of the purchase money, for which purpose he repaired to where the person of whom he had purchased resided: this gentleman, who had from time to time made inquiries into his mode of proceeding, received him kindly, and after settling the first payment, he offered him more of his lands on the same terms; but William was unwilling to embarrass himself, and declined enlarging his domains: he proposed however, and the other readily agreed, that before parting with them to any other person on the same terms, William should have notice. Before they parted, it occurred to him to inquire of this gentleman, who had lately been in Philadelphia, whether he had heard any thing of his cousin Frederic: he said that he knew him perfectly well, had bought some teas of him at a reduced price for cash, and considered him as a man of fortune. William felt no small pleasure at this information, and proceeding to interrogate him more closely, he learned that on his return from Canton, his employers had expressed great approbation at the propriety of his conduct, and although the voyage did not turn out very profitably to them, Frederic's commissions had yielded him a handsome sum—that he had opened a store, and shortly afterwards married an amiable and accomplished young lady, had a handsome though small house in a genteel part of the city, very elegantly furnished, and this gentleman had the pleasure of dining with him, and only regretted that he had gone to so much expense to entertain him.

Did he appear happy, asked William—why yes, answered the old gentleman, when we sat down to dinner, which was an hour later than I liked. He made some apology to me when he came in, which I did not exactly understand, and told his wife, with some appearance of discontent, that somebody had disappointed him; but his brow, which appeared at entrance a little ruffled, soon cleared off, and after resisting their importunities, I left them about six o'clock, soon after which I saw them drive by my lodgings in a handsome gig, talking and laughing, with all the appearance of perfect happiness.

William, who had had only one short letter from his cousin since his return from Canton,

which he had immediately announced, determined to write to him again; and before leaving the village, transmitted him by post a long epistle, in which he faithfully related his own fortunes, and kindly inquired into those of his cousin.

An answer, from which the following extracts are faithfully taken, was shortly afterwards left at the post office of — town, in another county, where it lay several months, and was advertised in the newspaper before it came to William's knowledge.

"All that — has told you is literally true. I made a fortunate voyage, opened a store, married a lovely young woman, and at that time seemed to have the world at my own command; but my dear William, business has lately opened quite a different aspect, money has grown very, very scarce—I cannot get in what is due to me; some who owe me considerable sums, are as bad off as I am—there have been two or three failures lately, by which I have been a loser—the banks are cutting us down, which has thrown me into the market, and I am sorry to tell you that I have been horribly shaved—I scarcely suppose that you have much cash at your own command, but if you know of any friend who has two or three thousand dollars or more to spare, I will cheerfully pay one per cent. per month, and give them a good endorser.

"Pray let me hear from you—if your friends or yourself would make a consignment of flour to me, it would answer as well as sending cash. I would allow the highest market price, and date the notes from the moment the flour arrived."

Some of these expressions were not very intelligible to the receiver of the letter. He showed it to his mother, who concurred with him in regretting that fortune appeared so soon to frown on the young merchant—but neither of them comprehended exactly how the banks cut down, nor why Frederic was thrown into the market; the good old lady, taking literally the phrase "horribly shaved," could not refrain from observing, that it was a very trifling circumstance to introduce in a letter, and she could not suppose the state of his beard had much to do with the state of his circumstances.

William, though equally at a loss with her in respect to this kind of language, thought it his duty to write immediately, and after explaining the cause of his delay, which he attributed to his cousin's omission to add the name of the proper county to the superscription of his letter, there being, as frequently happens in these United States, two small towns of the same name, not far from each other—he declared his regret at being unable to lend or procure for Frederic the money he so much wanted—concluded with kindly inviting him, if circumstances should still prove adverse, to come out to his farm, the way to which he carefully described, and there partake with him of the simple but abundant blessings he enjoyed.

In the fourth year of his settlement, Wil-

William made good another payment, and being again pressed, consented to take the residue of the land, amounting altogether to sixteen hundred acres, on nearly the same terms, though at a longer credit. The next year he formed two distinct settlements, and shortly afterwards sold one to an emigrant from New Jersey, at double the price he had contracted to give.

It is a wild notion, said he to his mother, but perhaps my cousin Frederic may one day like to occupy the other. He might be willing, she answered, but do you suppose that a delicate young lady, bred up to a city life, could submit to it—a loud call from the woods interrupted them. William started up, and perceived a cart with some persons in it, outside of the fence in front of the house: he ran to the spot, leaped the fence, and in a moment had Frederic in his arms. Let me introduce you to my wife, said Frederic.—William, apologizing for his transport, beheld a fine young woman, whose beauty was but slightly obscured by plain and fine white dirty apparel. We have just now been overset, and my two little ones with my wife half buried in the mud, but nobody has been hurt. No, papa, cried a fine little boy, but I am very hungry. Oh, we have had no food all day, observed Frederic; my money has quite run out, and I supposed myself nearer to your house than I really was.

The heart of William was uneasy by these little incidents; he hastened to open the gate, and conduct them to his dwelling. His mother received them at the threshold in the kindest manner; a repast of bacon and eggs, milk, Indian cakes and maple sugar, was soon prepared; the children, when their appetites were gratified, and their persons cleansed from the mud, were put to bed, and the two cousins, with the wife of one, and mother of the other, entered into full and unreserved discourse. Frederic related the continual decline of his affairs, till he could no longer keep up his credit; his anxious endeavours to conceal their desperate situation from his wife, who had however constant suspicions that things were going wrong, and was constantly urging retrenchment, and in all she could practising economy; finally, his being protested by one of his shavers, a term which he was obliged to explain, and the result a general assignment, to which most of his creditors assented; but the one who protested him, although he had made a considerable profit out of his necessities, affecting to consider his account of his affairs untrue, threw him into jail, from which, after a close examination, he had just been discharged, without the slightest imputation of his integrity. The gentleman with whom he served his apprenticeship, had lent him thirty dollars, with which he embarked his family in the stage, and with great exertions had been able to keep up with it on foot, at least so as to lodge the first and second nights at the same house, when the driver had compassionately allowed him to take a seat alongside of him till they

reached the town, where he had procured the sorry horse and cart that brought him to the gate, on leaving his great coat as a pledge for their being duly returned.

William's feelings were deeply affected, and neither he nor his mother could at times withhold their tears; but when in conclusion his cousin observed, and now I have no friend living but yourself—my mother you know is dead—what she left me was soon expended in paying discounts and usurious interest. I tried in vain to obtain employment as a clerk in town. The last cent I possessed was advanced to the cautious owner of the vehicle that brought me here, and nothing but dreariness and desolation appear before me.—Could you put me into the humblest way of earning a morsel of bread for supporting my angelic wife, who never even by a look has upbraided me for my follies, of maintaining those helpless babes—Oh my cousin, cried William interrupting him, say no more; every thing is provided for you—to-morrow we will see—it is time that you retire to rest.

The next morning, after a plain and plentiful breakfast, William invited Frederic to walk—he took him round his farm—into his barn—showed him all his improvements, his stock, and implements of husbandry, then conducting him through a small piece of wood, he led him up to a new log house, with a barn near to it—such, said he, was my beginning; in five years you see me in comfortable, why may not I say, in affluent circumstances—what does affluence yield but the supply of all one wants—all my wants, nay all my wishes, except one, have been supplied; one wish, the only wish which till now remained ungratified, was to have you near me—there is your house, your barn, your field—the entire tract of land is yours—I will supply you with some furniture and stock, and till you raise enough for yourself, with provisions—Jacob and I will instruct you in farming, and if your wife should not be equal to the labour of the house, Jacob's wife shall relieve her from the burdensome part. Generous benefactor, said Frederic's wife, who, guided by the old lady, had pursued their footsteps, and heard the greatest part of his discourse, I will endeavour to merit your goodness. I have not yet had much experience of these duties—but the dream of luxury is over—and you shall all find me, I hope, a faithful student and a hard worker.

In a few days they entered on their farm. Frederic subdued every difficulty—his wife performed all her tasks—they are healthy and happy, and truly regret that they had so long been strangers to real independence and content.

[*Poulson's Adv.*]

The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, have elected Dr. Philip S. Physick, Professor of Anatomy in that institution, in the place of Dr. Dorsey, deceased.

*Literary Intelligence.*—The fourth volume of M. De Humboldt's Travels, is announced in the London Courier of the 27th of May.

*Leslie's Painting.*—A London paper of May 11th, noticing the exhibition of paintings by the Royal Academy, observes, "Sir Roger de Coverly, surrounded by his tenants in the church yard, by Mr. Leslie, an American student, is full of interest; and a Scene at the door of a Post Office, with the groups receiving and reading their letters, is dexterously managed."

### IMPROVEMENTS.

*Columbia River.*—We have heard, as our readers will have seen, of the arrival of Judge *Provost*, an agent of the United States, at Valparaiso, on his return home from the mouth of Columbia river. It is said that our government has received from him a highly interesting report of that part of his mission. We do not know whether it is intended to be published; but, if it were, we are persuaded it would be very generally acceptable. We want such a document, to make us acquainted with that most important, though remote, scion of the republic.—We even hope that Mr. *Provost* will bring back with him materials to furnish a volume on the subject, instead of a letter of a few pages, and that he will not withhold from his countrymen the fruits of his inquiries and observations. It will not be in the power, if it were the wish of the Atlantic states, to prevent the growth of a powerful commercial state at the mouth and on the banks of the Columbia. All the information respecting the country, which we can obtain, is therefore desirable. [Nat. Intel.]

*Steam-Boat on the Missouri.*—With no ordinary sensations of pride and pleasure, we announce the arrival, this morning, at this place, of the elegant steam-boat *Independence*, captain Nelson, in seven sailing days (but thirteen from the time of her departure,) from St. Louis, with passengers, and a cargo of flour, whiskey, sugar, iron, castings, &c. being the first steam-boat that ever attempted ascending the Missouri. She was joyfully met by the inhabitants of

Franklin, and saluted by the firing of cannon, which was returned by the *Independence*.

The grand desideratum, the important fact is now ascertained, that steam-boats can safely navigate the Missouri river.

A respectable gentleman, a passenger in the *Independence*, who has, for a number of years navigated the great western waters, informs us that it is his opinion, with a little precaution in keeping clear of sand bars, the Missouri may be navigated with as much facility as the Mississippi or Ohio.

Missourians may hail this era, from which to date the growing importance of this section of the country, when they view with what facility (by the aid of steam) boats may ascend the turbulent waters of the Missouri, to bring to this part of the country the articles requisite to its supply, and return laden with the various products of this fertile region. At no distant period may we see the industrious cultivator making his way as high as the Yellow Stone, and offering to the enterprising merchant and trader, a surplus worthy of the fertile banks of the Missouri, yielding wealth to industry and enterprise. [Franklin (Miss.) Intel.]

*Improvements on Lake Erie.*—"The works in our harbour (says a letter from Buffalo,) will be commenced the present season. It is contemplated to build out a pier or wharf, about 1000 feet into that bay, to prevent the sand from accumulating at the mouth of Buffalo creek. When this is done, any number of vessels may ride in perfect safety in the creek, and a great expense will be saved in loading and unloading. Several warehouses, on an extensive scale, are to be erected the ensuing summer, and, notwithstanding the general depression felt by all men in business, improvement is making giant strides."

*Savings Bank.*—We are happy to announce, that agreeable to public notice, the New York Savings Bank was opened on Saturday evening, in the spacious and convenient room in the basement story of the New York Institution in Chamber street.

In addition to Messrs J. Pintard, J. E. Hyde, and D. P. Campbell, the attending committee for the present month, the following trustees were present on the oc-

casion—Wm. Bayard, Esq. President, Col. Wm. Few, V. P. and Messrs. J. Eastburn, T. Eddy, Z. Lewis, J. Mason, J. Sherred, W. Wilson, and J. Thomson.

The deposits of the first evening far exceeded in number and amount, the most sanguine hopes of the trustees. The sum of *two thousand eight hundred and seven dollars* was received from *eighty* depositors. The largest deposit was *three hundred dollars*, and the smallest *two dollars*.

On Monday, notwithstanding it was a day of national festivity, the Directors devoted three hours, (from 11 to 2 o'clock,) to the Savings Bank, and had the pleasure to receive \$1269 from 37 depositors—making on the first week of its operations, a total deposit of \$4076.

We were particularly gratified to see lads, and young men from 16 to 20 years of age, principally clerks, bringing in their little deposits of from two to six and ten dollars. Let this description of youth, as well as others, be persuaded to relinquish the extravagance of dress and the indulgence in idle amusements, and put their savings at interest, and when they commence business for themselves, they will start in life, not only with a little capital, but also with habits of the most honourable and salutary kind.

As this is the commencement, and a very auspicious commencement, of the operations of the Savings Bank in this city, we have deemed it proper, on our own editorial responsibility, to detail to the public these interesting particulars. And believing as we do, that this institution, if suitably encouraged, will prove a distinguished blessing to the poor, and, in its effects, an incalculable benefit to the moral state of the community, we cannot omit again to request our fellow citizens in general, to urge upon their domestics and their poor neighbours, the importance of placing as much as possible of the fruits of their industry and economy at compound interest in the Savings Bank. [Com. Adv.]

*Extract of a Letter from Dr. Mitchill, dated June 22, 1819.*

"I congratulate you on the success of the effort to naturalize the *Date-bearing Palm* (*Phœnix dactylifera*) in the United States. Two gentlemen of South Caro-

lina, one of whom was a planter near St. Mary's, in Georgia, assured me, a few evenings ago, that the great object was secure. The seeds of the dates brought from *Arabia Felix*, by captain *Henry Austin*, and forwarded from New York to Mr. *Sinclair*, have vegetated as readily as black walnuts or peach kernels. The greater part of those he planted are now growing, and are found to measure, already, the height of *four inches*. His expectations of complete success are founded on the fact, that a fine tree of this species, *eighteen* years old, is now growing, in full vigour, on *Cumberland Island*. That tree is a *female*, and produces a profusion of blossoms annually; but, having no associate, she produces no perfect fruit.

"Of the seeds of the *Muscat date*, the principal part has vegetated, notwithstanding the stories propagated that the selfishness of the *Arabs*, or the inclemency of the voyage, had, by some means, destroyed their vitality. On receiving the thankful acknowledgments of these worthy citizens for my instrumentality in giving the *Date Palm* to America, I assured them that the praise and honour were due to captain *Henry Austin* only."

[To this may be added a fact, within the knowledge of the Editors, that a plant, five or six inches high, has been produced in this city from the date seed. When about that height, it was killed by an attempt to transplant it.] *Nat. Intel.*

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## Poetry.

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### SONG.

To \* \* \* \*

*Air—'Shannon Side'*

The world is bright before thee,  
Its summer flowers are thine,  
Its calm blue sky is o'er thee,  
Thy bosom, Pleasure's shrine;  
And thine the sunbeam given  
To Nature's morning hour,  
Pure, warm, as when from heaven  
It burst on Eden's bower.

There is a song of sorrow,  
The death-dirge of the gay,  
That tells, ere dawn of morrow,  
These charms may melt away,  
That sun's bright beam be shaded,  
That sky be blue no more,

The summer flowers be faded,  
And youth's warm promise o'er.

Believe it not—though lonely  
Thy evening home may be,  
Though Beauty's bark can only  
Float on a summer's sea,  
Though Time thy bloom is stealing,  
There's still beyond his art,  
The wild flower wreath of feeling,  
The sunbeam of the heart!

CROAKER & CO.

*New York Evening Post.*]

**Era of Good Feelings.**—There is a society in London, composed mostly of Christians, of which the British duke of Sussex, one of the king's sons, is president, for the relief and education of poor Jews and their children! At their late anniversary, a little Hebrew girl not seven years old, was placed on the table by his royal highness, when she recited the following beautiful ode:

O ye, whose comprehensive claims  
In one condens'd affection blend,  
All that endears the hallow'd names  
Of parent, guardian, guide and friend;  
Redeem'd by your paternal love,  
From hopeless poverty and sloth,  
Once more your children come to prove,  
Their mind and body's happy growth.

Here in our blooming cheeks, behold  
The blossoms of industrious health:  
Here, in our hearts, do we enfold  
The future fruits of moral wealth.  
For those I plead who hither come,  
Too young to make their own appeal;  
And ah! I supplicate for some,  
Almost too old your care to feel.

By all the griefs that ye assuage,  
By orphan's eyes uprais'd to bless;  
By the grey head of childless age,  
Bow'd to the earth in thankfulness,  
O freely, still, your aid bestow,  
Help us to live—the old to die,  
And blessing others here below,  
Yourselves be doubly bless'd on high!

But the best part of the account is, that the collection on the occasion amounted to between 7 and 8000 dollars! Two or three centuries ago, the Jews were considered the outcasts of the world, and that it was serving God to persecute them. America is the only Christian country in the world, whose annals do not record some persecution of the descendants of Abraham.

[*Centinel.*]

### THE SENTINEL ISLE.

Bermudas! thou land of the rock and the deep,  
Of the sunshine, the wind, and the rain;  
Of the islet, the harbour, the bay, and the steep—  
Thou sentinel isle of the main!  
Thou land of romance! with thy woods and thy caves,  
Where the secrets of nature are seen,  
With thy wild-rugged shores that the blue water laves,  
And thy cedar clad hills ever green.

Thou land of the lemon, the orange, the vine,  
Where flowers ever varying vie,  
And the tints of the earth, with the sun's golden shine,  
In beauty contrast with the sky;  
When the pleasure sail skims o'er the transparent flood,  
When sketched on whose bosom are seen  
The sun, the blue sky, and the rock, and the wood,  
And the islands of spring ever green.

Thou land where the castle frowns over the wave,  
That lashes the fabric below!  
Thou land of the breakers, the shoal, or the grave  
Of a proud or a vain boasting foe!  
Should a foe from abroad, or a tyrant at home,  
Ever stain with dishonour thy name,  
Thy sons must prevail, or at bravery's tomb,  
Lie stretch'd on the death bed of fame.  
[*Bermuda paper.*]

### MARRIED.

By the Rev. Dr. Potts, Mr. Benjamin Louderback, to Miss Hannah Cromly, all of this city.

### DIED.

On the 14th instant, William Leedom, merchant.  
Miss Ellenor Gallagher, daughter of Bernard Gallagher.

At Germantown, at the advanced age of eighty-six, Mrs. Margaret Kelter.

On the 6th instant, at Camden, New Jersey, Mr. Thomas Wright, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

In New York, Mr. Robert Hurst, of Philadelphia, aged twenty-one.

Mrs. Susannah Gleason, wife of Mr. Simeon Gleason, aged thirty-seven.

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